

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FACT SHEET

(pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

Permittee Name: San Emidio Agrigate, Inc.

Permit Number: NEV91040

General: The permittee is requesting to renew a permit to land apply "Class B" biosolids (sewage sludge) to agricultural land near Gerlach, Nevada. Most of the land application will occur on Orient Farms, north of Gerlach. Two other land application sites are also being authorized via this permit, Empire Farms and the Granite Ranch, and may be used when traveling the extra distance is not advisable, such as during the Burning Man celebration. Only non-food crops may be grown on land that has had biosolids applied to it within the past three years.

Receiving Water Characteristics: The groundwater is approximately 150 feet below the surface of the land and is of good quality. The only use of ground water in the area of land application and composting is for irrigation of farm crops.

Description of the Location of the Discharge: Orient Farms is approximately 20 miles north of Gerlach, Nevada. The Granite Ranch is approximately 10 miles north of Gerlach, Nevada. Empire Farms is approximately 10 miles south of Gerlach Nevada.

Characteristics: The biosolids from the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation facility will be treated at the treatment plant to meet "Class B" standards for pathogen reduction. The volatile solids content will be reduced by at least 38% to meet vector attraction reduction requirements. The biosolids will be analyzed 6 times per year to insure metal concentrations required by the Federal "503" regulations are met.

Flow: The application rate for the "Class B" biosolids will be based on the "Plant Available Nitrogen" from the biosolids and the nitrogen need of the crop being grown.

Procedures for Public Comment:

The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a permit authorizing the facility to discharge to the groundwater of the State of Nevada subject to the conditions contained within the permit, is being sent to the **Reno Gazette Journal** and the **Lovelock Review-Miner** for publication. The notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing up to and until March 15, 2001. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator or any interested

agency, person or group of persons.

The request must be filed by March 15, 2001 and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted.

Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determines to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445A.238.

The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445A.605.

Proposed Determination

The Division has made the tentative determination to reissue the proposed permit.

Proposed Application Limitations, Schedule of Compliance and Special Conditions

The permittee shall meet all of the requirements of 40 CFR Part 503 , Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge. These requirements specify the quality of biosolids that can be applied and the restrictions on crops that can be grown. The Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility shall be responsible for the quality of the Biosolids shipped to San Emidio Agrigate, Inc.

Rationale for Permit Requirements

Monitoring is required to protect the public from pathogens that may be in the biosolids, to protect wildlife from the biosolids and to protect the ground water from being degraded from the nitrogen in the biosolids.

by: Bill Coughlin, P.E.